

Rural District of Meriden.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1944,

BY

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OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

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1, MILVERTON HILL,
LEAMINGTON SPA,
September, 1945.

To the Meriden Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1944, and it is of special personal interest to me as it marks the completion of 25 years in your service.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. For the first time for several years, statistics can be printed in connection with population, etc.; it is to be hoped that in the future it will be possible to give further details when printing, paper, etc., are more available.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the members of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Meriden Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1944	...	...	33,870
Birth Rate	...	...	20.0
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	....	....	19
Death Rate	...	...	9.9
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	44
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			39
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	150
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	2
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Officers.—Unchanged.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	7	53	60
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	19	20
			80

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections.

1. (i) WATER.—29 samples of water were submitted to the Analyst, whose results showed that 6 were of good quality, 5 unsatisfactory, and 18 condemned.

During the year the ancient spring at Berkswell Village failed, and the Coventry mains were extended so as to afford supplies to the 45 dwellings and 1 school. Two other extensions (for 8 dwellings) were made.

(1). No complaints were received during the year as to the quality or quantity of supplies in the Birmingham and Coventry areas.

(2). No examinations of mains water were made.

(3). No action for contamination of pipes supplies has been necessary.

(4). Houses with supplies from public water mains number 6,322 (*a*, direct to houses) and about 100 only (*b*) by means of standpipes. The proportion of dwelling houses on public water mains amounts to 74 per cent. of the total.

D. HOUSING.

Representatives of the Rural District Councils and the County Council conferred in October and produced a Joint Rural Housing Advisory Committee, which dealt at considerable length with the proposals for a survey of working class dwellings and the standard of fitness to be applied in the survey and in housing programmes.

(b) *Housing Conditions.*

General Observations.—The situation is known, from records of council house applicants in the department, to be serious, with some crowding on permitted-number standard and a great deal of undesirable sharing of rooms, kitchens and conveniences with general unhappiness all round, chiefly for women and children.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—Sampling under the Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme was continued until 1st August, when it was stopped. 1,180 samples were taken, and there is no doubt that much improvement was being effected.

(b) Advisory visits were made at milking time.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1936.

	Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1937 ...	—	98	46	—	57	—	4
1938 ...	—	54	36	—	57	—	4
1939 ...	—	41	39	—	42	—	5
1940 ...	—	34	62	2	55	1	7
1941 ...	—	60	47	4	73	—	2
1942 ...	—	33	55	—	56	—	4
1943 ...	—	18	122	2	91	1	3
1944 ...	—	16	60	—	51	—	9

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1944.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation has continued during the year, and in all at the end of 1944 4,160 children had been treated in the schools and 1,386 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, giving a grand total up to December 31st, 1944, of 5,546.

School Closures.—Maxstoke Mixed and Infants. Mumps. 16th December, 1944, to Xmas Holidays.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
					Non-				Non-	
			Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—
1	1	—	...	1	—	...	1
5	—	1	...	2	5	...	1
15	4	9	...	1	1	...	—
25	6	6	...	—	1	...	1
35	3	4	...	1	—	...	1
45	2	—	...	—	—	...	—
55	1	1	...	—	—	...	—
65 and upwards	—	1	...	—	—	...	1
TOTALS	17	22	...	5	7	...	2
				—	—		—	—		—

Treatment.—20 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 21 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Copies of this Report have been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1944.

	Inspections and Observations made	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	845	—	82	82
Lodging Houses ...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	153	—	1	1
Cow Sheds ...	961	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	12	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	30	—	—	—
Canal Boats ...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ...	113	5	108	113
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	—	—	—	2
Water-closets ...	22	—	22	22
House Drainage ...	78	6	50	56
Water Supply ...	537	2	18	20
Pigsties ...	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept ...	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	68	3	—	68
Various Inspections ...	*3333	—	—	—
New Buildings ...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	6152	16	281	364

	No.
Drain tests: Other than Water ...	—
Unwholesome Meat condemned ...	1546lbs.
Samples of Food taken for analysis (Milk) ...	—
Samples of Food found adulterated ...	—
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	29
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	18

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding, Disinfected or Destroyed ...	—
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease ...	107
Schools ditto ditto ditto ...	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

* Includes billeting visits.

TABLE II.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1944 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1938	27,980	519	18.6	24	46	268	9.6
1939	29,590	514	17.5	29	55	281	9.5
1940	30,830	538	17.4	32	59	408	13.2
1941	34,210	564	16.5	35	59	377	10.6
1942	34,510	600	17.4	25	42	321	9.3
1943	34,310	667	19.4	30	45	321	9.4
1944	33,870	679	20.0	30	44	337	9.9

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1944.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1944.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	17.6	0.50	11.6	46
126 Great Towns, including London			20.3	0.64	13.7	52
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	20.9	0.61	12.4	44
London	...	...	15.0	0.42	15.7	61

TABLE III.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	16	1	4	2	4	4	1	.....	14	1
Erysipelas	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	4	2	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	60	1	14	34	5	5	1	.....	37	1
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	51	3	4	4	6	12	15	7	.....	19
Malaria	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dysentery	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	.....	.....	.....	3	6	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	5	1	2	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	1
Poliomyelitis	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	39	.....	1	1	13	19	4	1	.....	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	12	.....	1	7	2	2	.....	...	.....	6
Totals	208	7	26	48	35	57	25	10	51	41

TABLE IV.
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1944.

CAUSES OF DEATH:	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	183	154
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—
3 Scarlet Fever	1	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	1
5 Diphtheria	1	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	8	5
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	5	2
8 Syphilitic Diseases	3	—
9 Influenza	2	—
10 Measles	1	1
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	1	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	4	2
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	5	7
15 Cancer of Breast	—	7
16 Cancer, other Sites	19	17
17 Diabetes	2	3
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	13	19
19 Heart Disease	38	30
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	3	5
21 Bronchitis	7	9
22 Pneumonia	13	6
23 Other Resp. Diseases	2	2
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	1	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	—	—
26 Appendicitis	2	2
27 Other Digestive Diseases	5	4
28 Nephritis	6	7
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	7	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	6	2
33 Suicide	—	—
34 Road Traffic Accidents	9	3
35 Other Violent Causes	5	5
36 All Other Causes	13	12